



# **Welcome to the Michigan Roundtable on HUD Foster Youth Initiatives!**



# Speakers for Today's Roundtable

- **Mr. Joseph Galvan**, HUD Regional Administrator, Region V
- **Ms. Elizabeth Darling**, Commissioner, HHS Administration on Children, Youth, and Families
- **Ms. Stacie Bladen**, Deputy Director, Children's Services Agency, Michigan, Health and Human Services
- **Mr. Christopher Patterson**, HUD Regional Administrator, Region IX; National Lead on HUD Foster Youth to Independence Initiatives
- **Ms. Brittney Barros**, Former Foster Care Youth; FUP voucher recipient
- **Mr. Justin Black**, Former Foster Care Youth; Western Michigan University Graduate
- **Ms. Khadija Walker-Fobbs**, Chief Strategy Officer, Judson Center
- **Ms. Brandi McKenzie**, Education and Youth Services, Michigan Health and Human Services
- **Ms. Marie Johnson**, Portage Metropolitan Housing Authority; Portage, OH
- **Ms. Rosa Ailabouni**, Senior Advisor to the HUD Regional Administrator, Region V; Moderator/ Organizer, HUD Roundtables on FYI, Region V



*U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Hosts*

# Michigan Roundtable on Foster Youth Initiatives

*in partnership with U.S. Department of Health & Human Services*

**Joseph P. Galvan**



**HUD Midwest Regional  
Administrator**

**Christopher Patterson**



**HUD Pacific Regional  
Administrator**

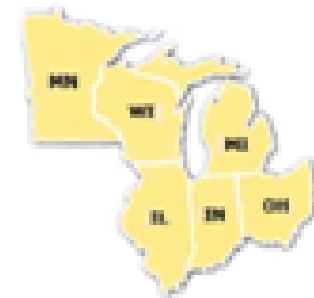
**Elizabeth Darling**



**HHS Administration  
on Children, Youth & Families  
Commissioner**

## Michigan Roundtable on Foster Youth Initiatives

Joseph Galvan, Regional Administrator  
U.S Housing and Urban Development (HUD)  
Region V (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin)



# Foster Youth have faced many housing challenges prior to the Foster Youth to Independence initiative



*With referrals for FYI/ FUP vouchers, Foster Youth can have a safe, stable place to live*

## Housing Challenges Foster Youth Were Facing

- Lack of financial assets or credit
- Not enough specialized services to engage foster youth in acquiring and maintaining stable housing
- No concrete plan for housing after they age out
- Housing specifically for foster youth-aged population

## Impact of Challenges Addressed by FYI vouchers

- HUD FYI TPV voucher complements the rent paid by youth (rent at 30% of income)
- Supportive services are secured by PCWA for foster youth. Services include:
  - Basic life skills
  - Housing Counseling & Landlord Support
  - Job Preparation & Counseling
  - Educational & Career Counseling
- Provides housing for eligible foster youth-aged population, ages 18-24

## STATISTICS TO REMEMBER:

- Nationally, over 20,000 foster youth “age out” each year.
- 1 in 5 foster care alumni report being homeless for some period of time after emancipating from foster care.
- 1 in 4 homeless adults is a former foster child.

# In July 2019, Secretary Carson provided FYI Tenant Protection Vouchers (TPVs) for youth



## Family Unification Program (FUP) Vouchers

What It Is
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• FUP is Awarded through a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA).</li><li>• Competitive demand means that FUP is not available in all communities and not all PHAs administer the program.</li><li>• Applicants must meet specific FUP and HCV eligibility requirements.</li><li>• FUP-eligible families comprise approximately 95% of current FUP participants; FUP-eligible youth make up the remaining 5%.</li></ul>

## Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Vouchers

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• FYI is an initiative to provide TPVs for youth eligible under the Family Unification Program (FUP) in communities that do not administer FUP.</li><li>• PHAs &amp; Public Child Welfare Agencies (PCWAs) partner through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).</li><li>• FYI is dependent on the availability of appropriations.</li></ul>
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Eligible Foster Youth Conditions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Attained at least 18 years and not more than 24 years of age;</li><li>• Left foster care, or will leave foster care within 90 days, in accordance with a transition plan described in section 475(5)(H) of the Social Security Act at age 16 or older; and</li><li>• Is homeless or is at risk of becoming homeless.</li></ul>

Administering Vouchers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• FUP funding is allocated through a competitive process, not all PHAs administer the program. Individuals interested in obtaining a FUP voucher can access a list of FUP PHAs on HUD's website.</li><li>• PHAs that administer the FUP, awarded any year, are not eligible to administer assistance under FYI TPV.</li><li>• FUP vouchers used by youth are limited, by statute, to 36 months of housing assistance.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PHAs request a FYI TPV from HUD to assist eligible youth for a period of 36 months.</li><li>• PHAs are eligible if they do not administer the Family Unification Program (FUP).</li><li>• If a PHA administers FYI TPVs, the PHA can still apply to administer FUP.</li></ul>

# The FYI Referral and Voucher Distribution Process should be started as Foster Youth ages out



1



2



3



4



5



Prior to Foster Youth aging out of foster care, the **Public Child Welfare Agency (PCWA)** or **Independent Living (IL) Coordinator** and the **Foster Youth** determines if FYI is the right fit.

**PCWA** and **Public Housing Authority (PHA)** and/or **COC** must have a MOU in place. (\*HUD encourages COC participation.)

**PCWA/ IL Coordinator** and **Foster Youth** begin assembling Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) paperwork for FYI/ FUP 3-6 months prior to leaving care, and begin conducting housing search.

**PCWA** sends a written referral to the **Public Housing Authority (PHA)** confirming the foster youth is eligible for the **Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Tenant Protection Voucher (TPV)**, to assist Foster Youth for a period of 36 months.

**PHA** submits a funding request for FYI TPV with HUD- required information to **U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)** to [FYITPV@hud.gov](mailto:FYITPV@hud.gov).

**HUD** reviews application for errors & provides voucher funding to the **PHA** within 60 days.

**HUD** generates an amended Annual Contributions Contract (ACC) grant agreement between **HUD** and **PHA**.

**PHA** administers the FYI TPV voucher to the **Foster Youth** and provides Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) to the **Landlord**.

**PCWA** provides assurances to **Landlord** and positive youth development services through age 23.

After 36 months of use, the FYI TPV assistance ends.

# To allow for the FYI Referral Process to go smoothly, PCWAs should develop a MoU with participating PHAs



*A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) should be developed between the PCWA, PHA and CoC outlining responsibilities*

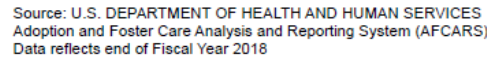
	Statement of Cooperation	Youth Eligibility	Supportive Services	Party Responsibilities
MoU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commitment to administering the program</li> <li>Goals and standards of success in administering the program</li> <li>Identification of PHA, PCWA and CoC Foster Youth to Independence liaisons</li> </ul> <p>(Optional)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attained 18, but not more than 24 years old;</li> <li>Left foster care, or will leave foster care within 90 days at age 16 or older;*</li> <li>AND</li> <li>Homeless or is at risk of becoming homeless**</li> </ul> <p>(Required)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basic life skills</li> <li>Counseling on rental lease compliance requirements</li> <li>Assurances to owners of rental property</li> <li>Job Preparation &amp; Counseling</li> <li>Educational &amp; Career Advancement Counseling</li> </ul> <p>(Required)</p>	<div>PHA</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accept referrals of youth certified by PCWA</li> <li>Determine if youth are eligible for HCV assistance</li> <li>Amend administrative plan, if needed</li> </ul> <div>PCWA</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>System for identifying FUP-eligible youth within caseload and review referrals from PHA and CoC</li> <li>System for prioritization of referrals to ensure youth are prioritized for FYI</li> <li>Provide written certification to PHA that a youth is FUP-eligible</li> <li>Secure a commitment for required supportive services</li> </ul> <div>CoC</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrate prioritization &amp; referral into coordinated entry process</li> <li>Identify services to be provided using CoC program funds</li> <li>Make referrals of FUP-eligible youth to PCWA. (Required)</li> </ul>

## Youth Eligibility Notes:

\*Transition plan in S475(5)(H) of Social Security Act

\*\* Defined in 24 CFR 578.3 and 24 CFR 576.2

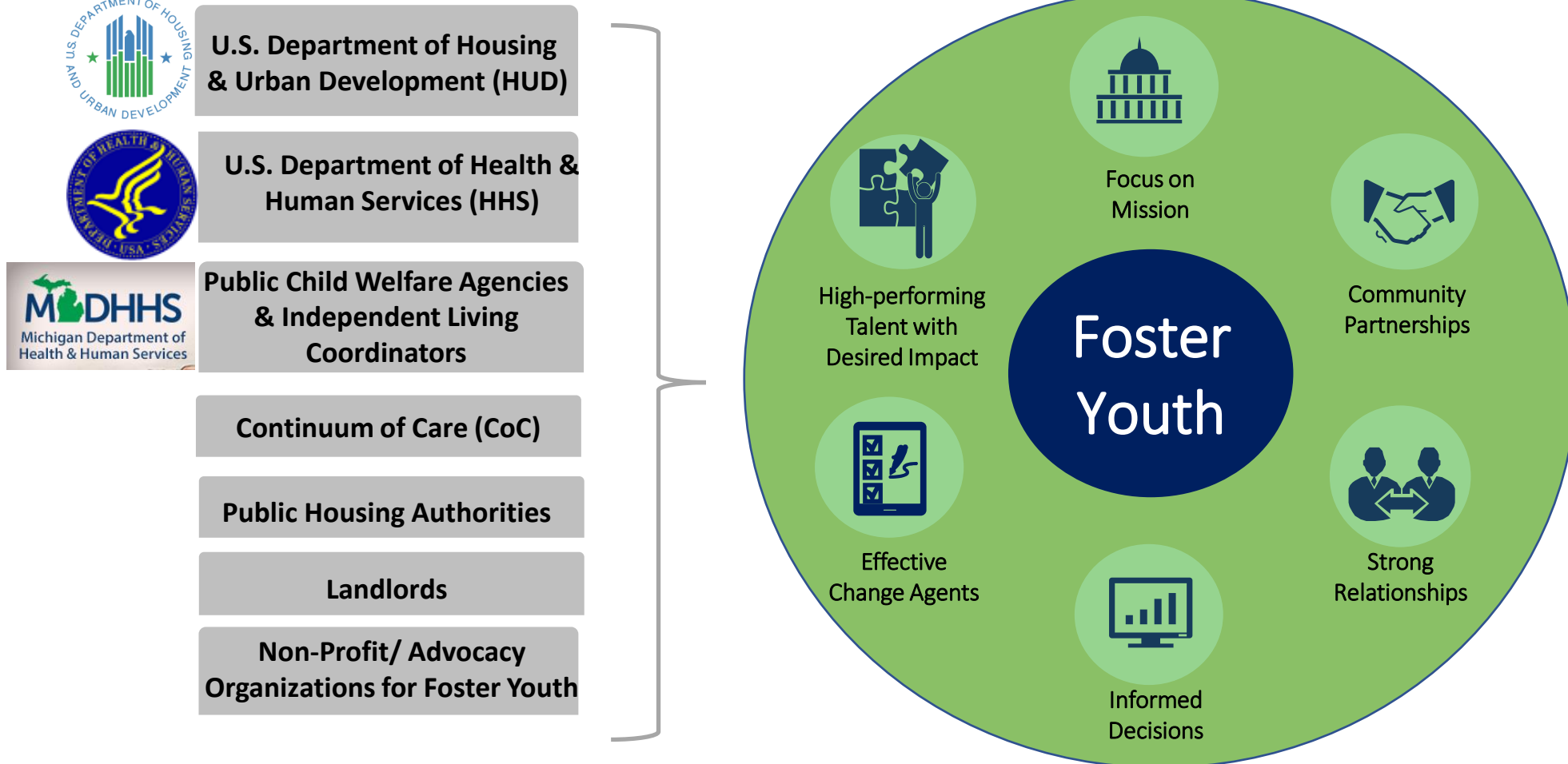
\*\*\*Eligibility is not limited to single persons, so if foster youth is pregnant and/or parenting, s/he is still eligible to receive assistance



# The vision for success on FYI Initiative is to prevent and end homelessness among foster youth



*With a blend of talents and perspectives from HUD, HHS, State and County Partners, PHAs, non-profits, and Foster Youth, our aim is to achieve a desired collective vision to prevent and end homelessness among foster youth and to ensure they have a safe place to call home.*



# References on FYI/ FUP Vouchers

## HUD Links:

### **HUD Notice on Tenant Protection Vouchers for Foster Youth to Independence Initiative:**

- <https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/PIH-2019-20.pdf>

### **HUD Foster Youth to Independence Initiative Site (with sample Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)):**

- [https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/public\\_indian\\_housing/programs/hcv/fyi\\_tpv](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/hcv/fyi_tpv)

### **FUP Resources**

- [https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/public\\_indian\\_housing/programs/hcv/family](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/hcv/family)

### **FUP Fact Sheet**

- [https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/FUP\\_FACT\\_SHEET.PDF](https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/FUP_FACT_SHEET.PDF)

### **Links on Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Initiative from Partners:**

- <https://www.nchcw.org/new-page>

# HUD FYI Contacts (Michigan & Region V)

## HUD Region V:

[HUDRegion5@hud.gov](mailto:HUDRegion5@hud.gov)

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Rosa Ailabouni

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## Michigan Points of Contact

Michael Polsinelli (Detroit Field Office Director)

[Michael.L.Polsinelli@hud.gov](mailto:Michael.L.Polsinelli@hud.gov)

Patricia Hairston (Detroit FYI POC)

[Patricia.M.Hairston@hud.gov](mailto:Patricia.M.Hairston@hud.gov)



# FYI Initiative at the Portage Metropolitan Housing Authority

Presented by:

Marie Johnson, Section 8 Manager



# Why Did PMHA Choose the FYI Initiative?



Prior to 2019, PMHA and our local Child Welfare Agency, Portage County JFS, discussed the possibility of applying for funding through the Family Unification Plan. Due to being a small county and not having an overwhelming unmet need for FUP, it was decided that we would not to pursue FUP voucher funding.

However, in July 2019 PMHA learned about the new Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Initiative. We saw that we could request as little as one FYI voucher and felt that if we could help even just one homeless or at-risk youth by providing a means by which he or she could obtain stable housing, that this was a program we needed to pursue.

PMHA reached out to Portage County JFS to begin a partnership to administer the FYI Initiative in Portage County, Ohio.

# Timeline of Events



- July 26, 2019: FYI Initiative was announced
- August & September 2019: PMHA discussed partnership and program plans with Portage County JFS
- September 23, 2019: MOU fully executed between PMHA and Portage County JFS
- January 21, 2020: PMHA received its first FYI-eligible youth referral from Portage County JFS
- February 20, 2020: PMHA submitted a request to HUD for funding for one (1) FYI TPV
- February 21, 2020: The request was approved by HUD
- April 9, 2020: The TPV was issued to the FYI-eligible youth
- June 1, 2020: Our first FYI youth was successfully housed

## How FYI Works on the Ground for PMHA

- The PCWA has regular meetings to determine what youth they're working with would benefit from the FYI initiative, those are the youths they refer to PMHA.
- The PCWA has designated one staff member to submit the referral to one designated staff member at PMHA. Currently, the referral is submitted to the Section 8 Manager to be logged into a tracking spreadsheet.
- Once the referral is logged, the file is then forwarded to the Section 8 Assistant Manager, this staff member directly communicates with the PCWA and the youth. The Assistant Manager is responsible for the program in its entirety.
- Currently, communication between the PCWA and PMHA has been via email and phone calls. We have also had conference calls with staff for both agencies as we were setting up our processes and expectations for the program.

# Program Successes and Lessons



- Strong communication with your partnering agencies is vital in the success of the initiative and youth you serve. The strong support is helpful for the youth, especially during their search for stable housing.
- The FYI initiative provided our youth with stable housing.
- The stable housing provide through the FYI initiative has afforded our youth the opportunity to explore furthering her education and build upon her independence.

# Questions?

Please feel free to contact:

Carolyn Budd, Special Programs Manager  
[cbudd@portagehousing.org](mailto:cbudd@portagehousing.org)

Marie Johnson, Section 8 Manager  
[mjohnson@portagehousing.org](mailto:mjohnson@portagehousing.org)

# Thank you!

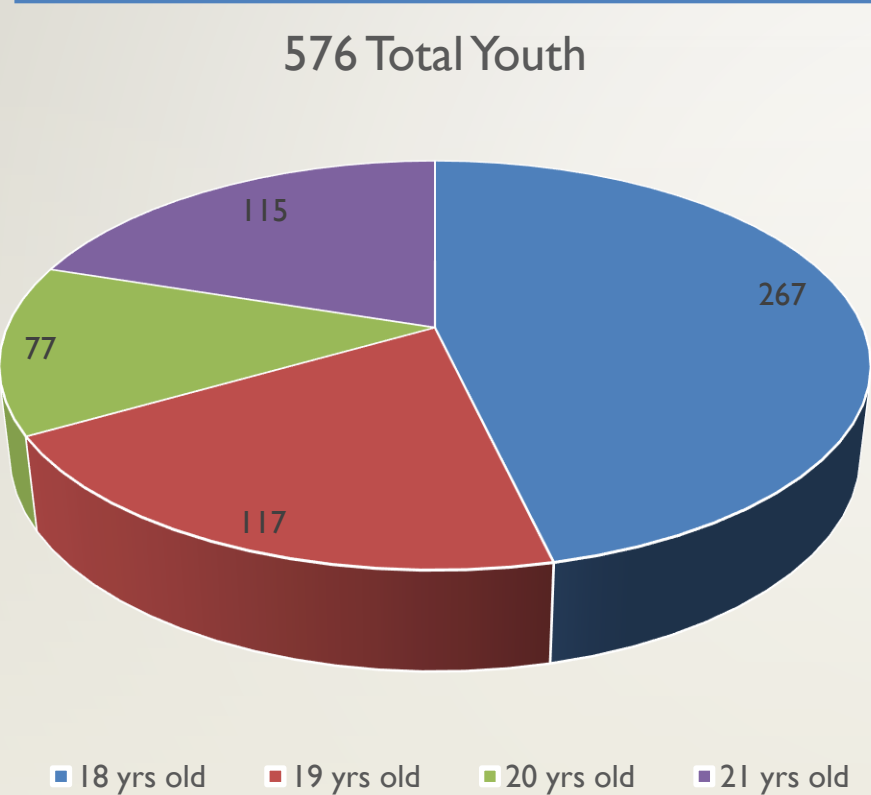


# MICHIGAN YOUTH SUPPORTS & DATA

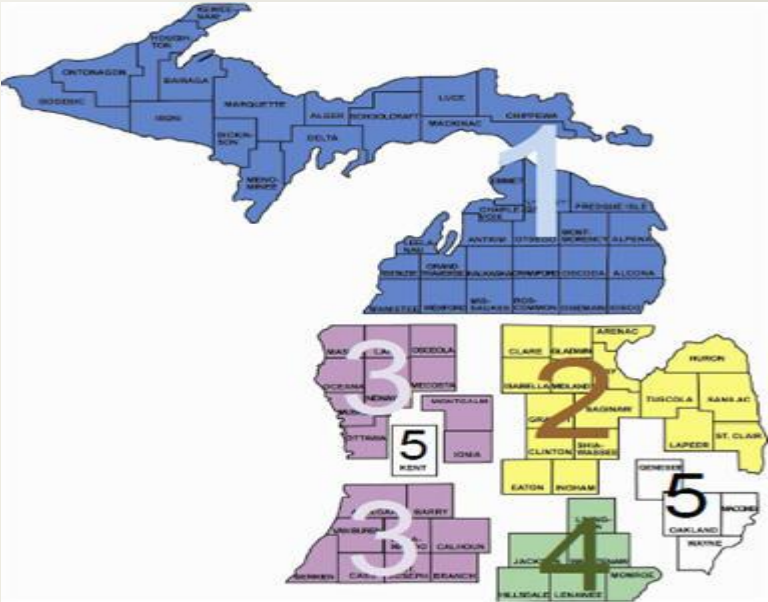
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# YOUTH WHO LEFT CARE FY19



BSC	1	2	3	4	5
# of youth exited	46	83	133	41	273



## Youth Outcomes

Includes information about all youth who were eligible to take the NYTD survey at ages 17, 19 and 21. \* Note that the youth who were surveyed does not reflect the overall number of youth who were in care at the age of 17, 19, and 21.

### Cohort 2 survey participation, FY 14-18



The data regarding housing as we look at the need for FYI vouchers for youth who have experienced foster is the number of youth who reported they had been homeless in the past 2 years. In FY 16, 24% reported they had been homeless and in FY 18 33% of those same youth reported that they were homeless in the past 2 years. This highlights the overarching need to fill in the gap and explore the barriers that impact youth's stability and housing needs once they exit foster and are working toward becoming self-sufficient and independent.

Outcomes reported	Baseline, 568 surveyed (17-year-olds in foster care, FY 14)	Follow-up Population , 457 surveyed (19-year-olds, FY 16)	Follow-Up Population, 398 surveyed (21-year-olds, FY 18)
Employed full- or part-time	14%	39%	52%
Receiving public assistance	N/A	42%	34%
Finished high school or GED	1%	42%	61%
Attending school	95%	58%	25%
Referred for substance abuse treatment	22% (in lifetime)	11% (in past 2 years)	11% (in past 2 years)
Incarcerated	30% (in lifetime)	26% (in past 2 years)	25% (in past 2 years)
Had children	5% (in lifetime)	10% (in past 2 years)	27% (in past 2 years)
Homeless	21% (in lifetime)	24% (in past 2 years)	33% (in past 2 years)
Connection to adult	95%	91%	89%
Medicaid coverage	92%	82%	77%

# OVERVIEW OF OLDER YOUTH SERVICES

<https://www.michigan.gov/fyit>

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INDEPENDENT  
LIVING SERVICES

CHAFEE (YOUTH  
IN TRANSITION )  
FUNDING

MENTORING  
CONTRACTS

EDUCATION  
SUPPORTS

MICHIGAN  
YOUTH  
OPPORTUNITIES  
INITIATIVE

FOSTER CARE  
TRANSITIONAL  
MEDICAID

SEMI-ANNUAL  
TRANSITION  
PLANNING

EXTENSION OF  
FOSTER CARE -  
YAVFC

SUMMER YOUTH  
EMPLOYMENT  
PROGRAMS

CAMPUS COACH  
PROGRAMS

EDUCATION  
AND TRAINING  
VOUCHER

HOMELESS  
YOUTH  
RUNAWAY  
CONTRACTS